

2012 Preservation Celebration Awardees

Collin County Historical Commission

Excellence in Historical Education Award

Joann Slaven was a founding member of the Prosper Historical Society and has devoted her time and talents to promoting the heritage of Prosper. Her contributions have benefited museum education, programs for schools, community organizations and the general public. Thanks to Joann's willingness to share her talents as a photographer, videographer, and web master, the Prosper Historical Society can forever share their research and their educational events with those who visit their museum. In 2010 the Prosper Historical Society received a grant from the Collin County Historical Commission to teach third graders in Prosper about how growing cotton influenced the development of the town. In addition to preparing materials and creating costumes for these productions, Joann, dressed in costume, assisted and filmed each school's event. She later created a DVD that documented the development of the events, the actual presentations, the students' participations and their evaluations, and interviews with the Prosper citizens who served as primary sources for the students' lessons. Since Joann Slaven grew upon a farm in North Texas, she has contributed an account of her experiences which has become a chapter in a book for second graders. The book and excerpts from her story will be part of the presentation the Prosper Historical Society makes to second graders about farm life in Prosper and surrounding communities.

Joann Slaven also maintains a blog for the Society to update information about Prosper veterans and activities relating to Museum activities. As a museum curator she maintains exhibits in the museum and posts information about the exhibits on the Society's blog. She recently completed an application for an historical marker for the Prosper Presbyterian Church. Joann serves as membership chair for both the Daughters of the American Revolution in Frisco and the Prosper Historical Society. She submits articles to the local paper and through her extensive genealogy research and training skills..

Whether it's teaching in the classroom, working in the museum, serving as a member of organizations devoted to the preservation of history, typing on a computer keyboard, working behind a camera lens, or doing research in the library, Joann Slaven generously donates her talents and much of her time to educating people about the history of Collin County and Texas.

Leadership in Preservation Award

Bob Heath, a citizen of Parker, Texas, has enriched the cultural heritage of Collin County through a lifetime of dedicated service to the ideals of preservation through renovation of historical buildings and sites in Collin County. He is well-known for his efforts in historical preservation in the cities of Farmersville, Wylie, and Parker. Heath purchased the long abandoned First National Bank of Farmersville built in 1905 and soon

began to return it to its former state. The original building was fireproof and featured a concrete roof and two vaults lined with firebrick and covered with three feet of sand over the firebricks. The integrity of the building was retained both inside and outside. He maintained the original arched windows which had been filled in with glass blocks in the 1960's. The glass blocks were conserved and used in the restroom windows. The two walk-in vaults, the original flooring, and the skylights were preserved. Matching bricks and pre cast facade pieces were custom made. Today the building is an Edward Jones Office. The Aston Building, on the National Historical Register, and presently owned by Royce and Jeannie Smith, was also renovated by Bob Heath. The Aston Building was constructed between 1885 and 1888 sits proudly on Main Street in Farmersville reminding citizens of their historical past.

Heath owns several businesses in the historical section of downtown Wylie. His own personal office is in the vault of the former Inwood Bank Building, which he restored. Referred to as "The Q" it now houses office suites and an Art gallery. Heath is on the board of Directors for the newly established Wylie Historical Society and is playing a role in preservation decisions for the city. In addition he transformed an aging apartment complex and remodeled an old firehouse in Wylie.

Currently, Heath is a member of the Parker Historical Society and is engaged in another preservation project in Parker to save an 1850's barn, known as Gray's Barn. The citizens of Parker rallied to save the barn from demolition, and the Parker Historical Society raised money to purchase supplies to renovate the barn. Heath plans to donate his time and a crew of workmen at no charge to renovate the barn during the spring and summer of 2012.

Living Legacy of Collin County Award

Rita Roose is a recognized leader in the field of preservation. She has worked tirelessly serving on committees and task forces, developing standards, and helping to shape the preservation of Collin County. Rita was appointed to the Collin County Historical Commission in 1976 and served until 2011. One of her first projects was to help restore the Old Post Office Museum in McKinney and members of the Commission pitched in to help the museum get started. Another project of the Commission was trying to convince people that the old historic Collin County Court House should be preserved. One Saturday, Rita and other members of the Commission had a band playing by the Court House and distributed leaflets. The Old Court House is still standing. Rita and the Commission helped preserve county documents by hauling them to the new Old Post Office Museum and cleaned up the old Collin County Jail which is still standing, too. Rita and her sister, Jeannette, had a small printing business in a print shop at Rita's house in Farmersville. They were familiar with doing layouts so they were hired to print the first marker books for the Collin County Historical Commission. Rita helped with several historical marker applications pertaining to sites in Farmersville-the Huson Cemetery, the First United Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, the Foy House, and Bain-Honaker House.

Rita was concerned about Farmersville losing its historical sites with the destruction of the Santa Fe Train Station. She called for a meeting at the Civic center and was elected president of the Farmersville Historical Society. The Society tried to save the

historic Murchison House, but it was torn down. Results of the efforts to save the historical Murchison house was that the Historical Society won the Texas State Historical Commission's Alamo Award for the most valiant effort at preservation that failed. The unexpected occurred when the Farmersville Historical Society received the 1865 Bain-Honaker House to restore. In the fall, the 5th graders from Farmersville ISD come to the Bain-Honaker House to take in a program called "Farmersville 1900" The 5th grader takes on the identity of a Farmersville child who was the same age in 1900. Rita would research the child and their family. Also she designed a program on the Caddo Indians for the children and wore a costume for the occasion. In 1996 Rita Roose published a calendar containing photographs of local historical sites for a Farmersville Historical Society fundraiser. People continue to send her early photographs of Farmersville buildings, families and historic events to include in the calendars.

Living Legacy of Collin County Award

Frances Bates Wells is truly a Collin County history Living Legend. Whenever a history question arises concerning southwestern Collin, Frances is the person people go to her for the answer. Frances married John Wells where they lived on their farm on what would become Coit Road, near Legacy Drive. After raising her children, she dedicated herself to recording and documenting that early way of life and the history of Collin County.

When the Friends of Plano Public Library compiled the book *Plano, Texas: The Early Years*, Frances was on the book committee. She wrote four chapters in the book, including farming and early pioneer life and contributed to four more chapters, about education and the Civil War. Also she contributed several photos.

Frances was a member of the Collin County Historical Commission for sixteen years. During that time she wrote applications for eleven state historical markers which were awarded for the southwestern Collin County area. Perhaps her most important research was for her first historical marker, the Muncey Massacre in Plano. Her research for the historical markers for the Frankford Cemetery and Frankford Church led her to research for a marker for the Shawnee Trail. The dedication ceremony for Shawnee Trail marker took place in part of Frisco and was part of a four-day wagon train reenactment down Preston Road from the Red River to the State Fair in Dallas. Frances did research for the markers for the oldest Baptist churches in Collin County- Rowlett Creek Baptist Church and the Liberty Baptist Church. Also she did a marker application for the Presbyterian Church of Plano.

Frances was interested in the history of the black community in the county. She wrote the historical marker application for Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano. It was while she was interviewing Eddie Stimpson Jr. "Sarge" about the lives of black sharecroppers in Collin County that she realized how unique his speech patterns were and how interesting his story was. She encouraged and helped Sarge with writing and publishing of his book, *My Remembers*.

Frances obtained copies of the George P. Brown papers and the Walter B. Wilson collection for the Plano library system. The George P. Brown papers contain Collin County historic interviews. The Walter B. Wilson collection contains eighty-seven scrapbook and eight diaries on Collin County history. Both collections are in the state

library in Austin and neither was available in Collin County. Copies of both collections are now in the Texana section of the W. O. Haggard Jr. Library in Plano.

Frances has amassed a large collection of historical photos of southwestern Collin County. The collection contains photos of early Plano businesses, area houses and people. Some of the pictures include the George House in Plano before it was moved to Old City Park in Dallas and the Renner Baptist Church before it was moved to the Farmers Branch Historical Park. The Frances Wells photo collection contains one hundred sixty seven historic photos and has been donated to the archive section of the W. O. Haggard, Jr. Library in Plano, along with her research papers and numerous historic papers, letters and maps of local interest.

Frances has always been eager to discuss and share the history of Collin County. A visit to her house on Coit Road would include a lively discussion of county history and was usually followed by invitation to play ping pong in her garage.

Young Visionaries Award

Andrew, Blake and Carter Bogdan have been active in the Cemetery Association of Murphy, Inc. by attending cleaning days at the cemetery and assisting at the public events at the Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy Cemetery. The Bogdan family has been a member of the Cemetery Association, since 2007. Andrew Bogdan is 16 years old and attends McMillen High School in Murphy. Blake and Carter Bogdan are 12 years old and attend Murphy Middle School. They are residents of Murphy, Texas.

In May, 2008 Blake Bogdan worked very hard to clean markers with a special solution. All three brothers have trimmed limbs, picked up trash on the perimeter of the cemetery and stack displaced pieces of concrete. At the May 28, 2010 Memorial Day Observance both Blake and Carter were history presenters at assigned family grave sites. Visitors progressed around the cemetery and stopped at seven different stations to hear the history of the people buried in the cemetery. Carter told about the Lewis Family and Blake described the Parker family. Carter Bogdan at the annual Memorial Observance in May, 2011 presented the history of two Civil War Veterans. In 2012 both Andrew and Blake assisted with another cleanup day in 2012.

The boys come to the Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy in good spirits. They are willing to take directions and complete tasks that are asked of them. It is not much fun pulling weeds at the front gate or picking up brick and stacking it or raking around the markers and sweeping off grass cuttings, but the Bogdan brothers have no complaints.

Their three names, Andrew, Blake and Carter, appear as donors along with the names of their parents' on a brass plate that is on the back of the historical marker in Decatur-Maxwell-Murphy Cemetery. They have certainly taken an interest in the cemetery and have worked to maintain and preserve it for several years.

